Unleaded MS production facilities and Indmax Unit at an estimated cost of Rs. 680 crore have already been taken up for modernisation of Guwahati Refinery and also for improving product quality.

Bongaigaon Refinery

The Refinery Expansion Units of Bongaigaon Refinery commissioned in 1995-96 have been provided with modem Digital Control Systems. Optimisation of its process units to improve the plant efficiency and performance by implementing Advance Process Control System (APCS) have already been taken up. Projects for Product Quality Improvements have been taken for study.

Numaligargh Refinery

Numaligarh Refinery has been set up as one of the most modern and energy efficient Refineries in the country incorporating state-of-art technologies.

Allotment of LPG, Thesel outlets to Tribal People

1625. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have any proposal to formulate policy to exclusively reserve the allotment of dealership of petrol pump/LPG and Thesel outlet to the tribal people in the tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUS-WAMY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy 25% dealerships^ distributorships are reserved for Scheduled CastesScheduled Tribes. Keeping in view of the fact that majority of the population in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram betong to Scheduled Tribes, higher percentage of reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the allotment of dealershiptiistributorships have been provided as per details given below:

State	Percentage of Dealerships to be awarded to ST category	Balance % to be awarded to Open Category
Arunachal Pradesh	70	30
Meghalaya	80	20
Nagaland	80	20
Mizoram	90	10

Division of LPG Agencies on Compassionate Grounds

†1626. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2745 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th April, 1999 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compassionate based partnership agencies available to Scheduled Castes are also included in Said agency;

(b) if so, whether a request for division of the same has been received; and

(c) if so, by when and what are the reasons for delay in decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Out of the 5 LPG distributorships mentioned in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2745 for 15.4.99, which have requested Govemment for bifurcation of their LPG distributorship, MS Anand Gas Agency, Mokama, Bihar is the only LPG distributorship awarded under 'SC category. As per the existing policy, bifurcation of LPG distributorships is allowed under the DGR category only. The Govemment has not approved the request for bifurcation of the above 5 LPG distributorships.

Seismic Survey in Bengal Basin

1627. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: